

Approval received for construction of 500 housing units

By SSgt. Steve Ball
Public affairs

Civil engineers received approval from Air Staff May 4 to seek offers for the construction of 500 housing units for members stationed at RAF Lakenheath, RAF Feltwell and RAF Mildenhall.

The new housing units will be in several different estates ranging from 50 to 100 units per estate. All estates must be within a 45-minute commute of the bases.

"Our goal is to get people in closer to the base," said Col. Doug Richardson, 48th Fighter Wing commander. "We currently have many members of the wing commuting more than an hour one way to get to work. Adding two hours to a long work day can have a negative impact on people's quality of life. These new homes will get people closer to the base and ultimately shorten work days."

Complete terms and conditions will be available for contractors May 27. There is also a pre-tender submittal conference at RAF Mildenhall June 12 and all offers must be submitted by July 14.

"Construction on the units should begin in late 1997 and should be complete in October 1998," said 1st Lt. Ray Orie, Lakenheath housing privatization officer.

The units will be leased for military housing just as the Anglo and Newmarket housing areas are. Lakenheath currently has 2,230 housing units, 1,065 of which are leased.



Photo by TSgt. Sam Shore

Putting out fires

SrA. Tyson Kingsbury gets his firefighting equipment in place during this week's surety inspection. The inspection began Monday and ended Thursday.

Students solve problems at Gdansk Creativity Festival

By Poppy McAfee
Public affairs

Seven students from RAF Lakenheath High School represented the Department of Defense Dependents Schools April 30 - May 4 in the Odyssey of the Mind European Creativity Festival in Gdansk, Poland.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving competition that requires groups of students to work cooperatively to arrive at solutions to various problems. Some teams design and build structures, while others write plays with script, music, costumes and props.

The high school team competed in Leeds, where the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition was held March 22. The team's high score for the spontaneous problem-solving qualified it for the Gdansk trip.

Forty-six teams totaling 322 students represented nine European countries and the United States in the creativity festival.

During the four-day event, the teams presented and performed their long-term problems, learned Polish dances and songs, made

friends and pen-pals with other competitors, and had a few hours to tour the old city of Gdansk.

"It was great to tour historic Gdansk," said senior Don Rueth. "St. Mary's Cathedral and the Solidarity Monument were amazing. The celebrations of the Golden Millennium made Gdansk an exciting place to be."

This year's creativity festival had a new twist called the "Millennium Problem about Gdansk." For this, members of two or three teams speaking different languages made up one international team tasked to put together a five-minute skit. In addition to the skit they had to learn and perform a Polish song.

"Working with children through a language barrier was rather difficult, but I enjoyed our Hungarian teammates," said senior Meghan Smith. "Trying to organize the skit with them proved to be a challenge and perfected my use of self-made sign language."

"I had a great time associating with the Hungarians," said sophomore April Ramsey. "There was a lot of humor and smiles, and even though we did not understand each

other verbally, we seemed to pull it off."

The students were able to come together and work as a team with their new non-English speaking partners and they also did it in a matter of hours.

"I don't think adults give enough credit to kids. It was neat to see them come together and work as a team, each drawing on their own strengths," said the team's coach, Pam Parker. "They were very creative thinkers and very hard workers. I think they especially enjoyed working with a non-English speaking team, and they also wanted to experience the culture of another country and learn more."

"Spending a school year solving creative problems with your friends, competing with your British counterparts, and traveling to Poland to prove your ideas — what incredible experiences OM provides our students," said Jean Silvernail, DoDDS staff developer and Odyssey of the Mind coordinator.

The students were: Meghan Smith, senior; Kathleen McGinnis, senior; Dan Rueth, senior; Laura Hagenauer, senior; Jared Smith, sophomore; April Ramsey, sophomore, and junior Jennifer Hersey.